

¹⁹
~~73.~~ The nucleic acid of claim ¹⁸~~72~~, wherein said nucleic acid is selected from the group consisting of DNA and RNA.

²⁰
~~74.~~ The nucleic acid of claim ¹⁸~~72~~, wherein said nucleic acid comprises an open reading frame that encodes a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 22 or its complement, or a mutant or variant thereof.

²¹
~~75.~~ The nucleic acid of claim ¹⁸~~72~~ wherein said nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid of SEQ ID NO: 22 or its complement.

²²
~~76.~~ The nucleic acid of claim ²⁰~~74~~ wherein the nucleic acid encodes a mature form of a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence that is SEQ ID NO: 22.

²³
~~77.~~ The nucleic acid of claim ²¹~~75~~ wherein said nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid of SEQ ID NO: 22, a mutant or variant thereof.

²⁴
~~78.~~ An oligonucleotide sequence that is complementary to and hybridizes under stringent conditions with the nucleic acid of claim ¹⁸~~72~~, a variant or mutant thereof.

²⁵
~~79.~~ The oligonucleotide sequence of claim ²⁴~~78~~ which is complementary to at least a portion of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21, its complement, or a mutant or variant thereof.

²⁶
~~80.~~ An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence complementary to at least a portion of a nucleic acid according to claim ²⁰~~74~~.

²⁷
~~81.~~ A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim ¹⁸~~72~~.

²⁸
~~82.~~ A cell comprising the vector of claim ²⁷~~81~~.

29 83. The cell of claim 82 wherein said cell is a prokaryotic or eukaryotic cell comprising the nucleic acid sequence which is SEQ ID NO: 21, its complement, or a mutant or variant thereof.

30 84. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the nucleic acid of claim 82 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

31 85. A process for producing a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid of claim 82, said process comprising:

- 28
- a) providing the cell of claim 82;
 - b) culturing said cell under conditions sufficient to express said polypeptide; and
 - c) recovering said polypeptide,

thereby producing said polypeptide.

32 86. The process of claim 85 wherein said cell is a prokaryotic or eukaryotic cell.

33 87. A process for identifying a compound that binds the nucleic acid of claim 82, the process comprising:

- a) contacting said nucleic acid with a compound; and
- b) determining whether said compound binds said nucleic acid sequence.

34 88. The compound identified by the process of claim 87.